items and reduction in the Peak duty of customs from 35 per cent to 30 per cent.

Decline in credit deposit ratio of RRBs

3712. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the name of profitability the credit-deposit ratio of RRBs is coming down and they arc moving away from the objectives of RRB Act;

(b) if so, the total amount of investment made by RRBs outside their service area;

(c) whether Government propose to utilize these funds for rural infrastructure finance on the lines of NABARD, HUDCO, World Bank etc.; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this direction to arrest reverse flow of funds from rural areas to urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) arc trying their best to achieve their objective of serving the rural poor and meeting the genuine credit needs of the borrowers in their area of operation. However, high incremental growth in deposits, law and order problem in few States and the poor recovery climate have affected credit dispensation capacity of RRBs. This has led to low credit deposit ratio in RRBs.

(b) The RRBs are required to invest funds in Government and other approved securities to fulfil the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) obligation. RRBs arc also permitted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to invest non-SLR funds at par with Commercial Banks subject to the observance of exposure limits. The total amount of investment of SLR and Non-SLR funds of RRBs is Rs. 25402.24 crore.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

(d) Various new schemes like Kisan Credit Cards, Self Help

Groups, Agri-clinic, Cold storage and water shed development have been introduced to increase the lending's of RRBs in rural areas and to stop reverse flow of funds from rural areas to urban areas.

Expenditure Reforms Commission

3713. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Expenditure Reforms Commission has recommended 33 years of service limit or 58 years of age for superannuation whichever is earlier for the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the recommendation of the Committee;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that increase of age limit from 58 to 60 years has imposed financial burden which is avoidable; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to reduce the bloated work force of Central and State Government Departments/ agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The suggestion of Expenditure Reforms Commission regarding age limit for superannuation for Central Government employees is under examination.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. It was estimated that the increase in the age of retirement from 58 to 60 years will result in fiscal relief of Rs. 5200/-crores per annum for two years.

Probe in funds transfer to GTBL

3714. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI is presently probing the huge amount of fund transfer of five Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) to Global Trust Bank Ltd. (GTBL);

(b) if so, the name of the OCBs;